

REMARKS

The applicant appreciates the examiner's review of the prior art and the present application. The applicant requests reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks. The applicant has cancelled claims 26-26. The applicant has added new claim 37-43, which are identical to originally filed claims 1-3, 6, 8, 9, and 11. Claims 1-26, and 37-43 are currently pending in the application.

The applicant has also amended claim 5 to correct a newly discovered antecedent basis problem within the originally filed claims. The applicant apologizes for any confusion.

35 U.S.C. §112

The office action rejected Claims 1, 12 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the office action suggests that the phrase "the movable support member being movable at a rate different than that of the shaft" is not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The applicant respectfully disagrees and would like to direct the examiner's attention to page 12, lines 1-2 of the originally filed application. This passage states that the lubricant contained within the cavity may ease the *relative movement between the support member and the shaft lower end*. As known to those of ordinary skill in the art, the term "relative movement" means movement with respect to another object. In other words, the support member and the shaft lower end are moving with respect to one another. For such movement to occur, the support member and the shaft lower end must be moving at different rates.

In a similar manner, new claims 37-43, which are identical to originally filed claims 1-3, 6, 8, 9, and 11, state that the movable support member is movable relative to the shaft. Therefore, new claims 37-43 are allowable for the same reasons noted above.

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the relevant art would reasonably conclude that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The pending claims are thus fully enabling and comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The office action maintains the rejection of claims 1-25 as being anticipated under 35 USC §102(b) by the disclosure of US Patent No. 5,710,678 (Leuthold et al., hereinafter "Leuthold").

The applicant would like to point out that the office action appears to be addressing an incorrect revision of the claims. The office action suggests that claim 1 includes the limitation "the moveable support member being moveable relative to the shaft." However, this claim language was part of the originally filed claims and is not in the currently pending claims 1-25. The applicant amended the original claims in the response filed April 18, 2006 to read, in relevant part, "the moveable support member being moveable at a rate different than that of the shaft."

In addition, the applicant is confused as to why the office action maintains the rejection based upon the Leuthold reference. As discussed during the Examiner interview on March 22, 2006, the Leuthold reference does not disclose that the steel ball 160 moves at a rate different than that of the shaft. It is the applicant's understanding that, during the interview, the Examiner agreed. Therefore, the applicant believes that the pending claims are allowable over the Leuthold reference because Leuthold fails to disclose a *moveable support member being moveable at a rate different than that of the shaft*. The applicant requests that the examiner telephone the applicant's attorney to clarify.

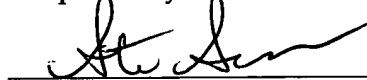
Further, new claims 37-43 state that the movable support member is *movable relative to the shaft*. As discussed above in response to the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejection, the term relative means that the components are moving at different rates, which Leuthold fails to disclose. Therefore, new claims 37-43 are allowable for the same reasons discussed above.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The office action rejects claims 26-36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leuthold in view of U.S. Patent Number 1,866,478 (Mortensen, hereinafter "Mortensen"). As mentioned above, applicant has cancelled claims 26-36. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

All pending claims therefore are allowable over the cited art. The application therefore is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The applicant does not believe that any extension of time is required. However, if any extension of time is required, please charge the associated fees to Deposit Account No. 19-4972. In addition, please charge any addition fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4972. Applicant also requests that the examiner contact the applicant's attorney Steven Saunders for an interview if he does not agree with the applicant's remarks.

Respectfully submitted,



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